Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

TABLE IX.—*Ratio of number of persons of different ages enumerated in sample areas in Baltimore in 1918 to that enumerated in the entire city in 1910.*

Age period.	Population.						Ratio, 1918 to 1910.			Indices of ratios.		
	Both sexes.		Male.		Female.		Both sexes.	Male.	Female.	Both sexes.	Males.	Females.
	1910	1918	1910	1918	1910	1918						
All ages	557,790	31,697	267,897	14,677	289,893	17,020	0.0568	0.0548	0.0587	100	....	....
Under 5	51,986	3,226	26,189	1,641	25,797	1,585	.0621	.0627	.0614	109	111	108
5 to 9	49,617	2,988	24,739	1,500	24,878	1,488	.0602	.0606	.0598	106	107	105
10 to 14	48,507	2,826	23,564	1,375	24,943	1,451	.0583	.0584	.0582	103	103	102
15 to 19	54,253	2,815	25,124	1,304	29,129	1,511	.0519	.0519	.0519	91	91	91
20 to 24	58,713	2,749	27,373	959	31,340	1,790	.0468	.0350	.0571	82	62	101
25 to 29	54,311	2,826	26,127	1,138	28,184	1,688	.0520	.0436	.0599	92	77	105
30 to 34	45,604	2,758	22,195	1,260	23,409	1,498	.0605	.0568	.0640	107	100	113
35 to 39	43,163	2,445	21,029	1,207	22,134	1,238	.0566	.0574	.0559	100	101	98
40 to 44	36,963	2,057	17,852	1,000	19,111	1,057	.0557	.0560	.0553	98	99	97
45 to 49	31,627	1,880	15,367	912	16,260	968	.0594	.0593	.0595	105	104	105
50 to 54	26,510	1,631	12,856	784	13,654	847	.0615	.0610	.0620	108	107	109
55 to 59	18,607	1,071	8,987	499	9,620	572	.0576	.0555	.0595	101	98	105
60 to 64	14,351	936	6,541	452	7,810	484	.0652	.0691	.0620	115	122	109
65 to 69	10,454	663	4,662	311	5,792	352	.0634	.0667	.0608	112	117	107
70 to 74	6,647	417	2,800	170	3,847	247	.0627	.0607	.0642	110	107	113
75 and over	6,477	409	2,492	165	3,985	244	.0631	.0662	.0612	111	117	108

Unless in a given locality there are known to have been considerable accretions to the male population of the ages under consideration, which offset the depletion due to withdrawals for military service, rates based on the estimated number of total males or females in each age group, after allowing for withdrawals for military service, will be more accurate than rates which do not take into account these withdrawals. Probably they will be more nearly correct than rates computed on the basis of "normal" death rates.

At best, such corrections as can be made of population estimates for 1918 are very rough approximations. The foregoing may prove suggestive to health departments as rather simple methods for making corrections for the withdrawal of males of certain ages from civil life, and for testing rates based upon "corrected" and "uncorrected" population estimates.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN UNITED STATES REGISTRATION AREA.

CENSUS BUREAU SUMMARIZES MORTALITY STATISTICS FOR 1918.[1]

The Census Bureau's annual compilation of mortality statistics for the death-registration area in continental United States shows 1,471,367 deaths as having occurred in that area in 1918, representing a rate of 18.0[2] per 1,000 population, the highest rate on record in the Census Bureau—due to the influenza pandemic.

---

[1] A similar summary for 1917 was published in Public Health Reports for July 4, 1919, pp. 1474-78.

[2] If the death rate from all causes had been 14.2, the same rate which obtained in 1917, the number of deaths in the registration area for 1918, comprising a population of 81,868,104, would have been 1,162,527, indicating an excess of deaths in 1918 over 1917 of 308,840.

The death registration area in 1918 comprised 30 States, the District of Columbia, and 27 registration cities in nonregistration States, with a total estimated population of 81,868,104, or 77.8 per cent of the estimated population of the United States. The Territory of Hawaii is now a part of the registration area, but the figures given in this summary relate only to continental United States. (In 1917 the death-registration area of the United States comprised 27 States, the District of Columbia, and 43 cities in nonregistration States, with a total estimated population of 75,000,000, or about 73 per cent of the estimated population of the United States.)

Of the total deaths, 477,467, or over 32 per cent, were due to influenza and pneumonia (all forms), 380,996 having occurred in the last four months of the year during the influenza pandemic. The rate for influenza and pneumonia (all forms) is 583.2 per 100,000. Influenza caused 244,681 deaths and pneumonia (all forms) 232,786, showing rates of 298.9 and 284.3 per 100,000 respectively, these being the highest rates which have ever appeared for these causes. The rate in 1917 for influenza was 17.2 and for pneumonia (all forms) was 149.8. In fact, the difference (416.2 per 100,000 population) between the 1917 and 1918 rates corresponds with the excess mortality which occurred in the last four months of the year from the influenza pandemic.

The next most important causes of death were organic diseases of the heart, tuberculosis (all forms), acute nephritis and Bright's disease, and cancer, which together were responsible for 391,391 deaths, or nearly 27 per cent of the total number.

The deaths from organic diseases of the heart numbered 124,668, or 152.3 per 100,000 population. The death rate from this cause shows a slight decrease as compared with 1917, when it was 153.2 per 100,000. There have been fluctuations from year to year, but in general there has been a marked increase since 1900, the earliest year for which annual mortality statistics were published, when the rate for organic diseases of the heart was 111.2 per 100,000 population.

Tuberculosis in its various forms caused 122,040 deaths, of which 108,365 were due to tuberculosis of the lungs. The death rate from all forms of tuberculosis was 149.1 per 100,000, and from tuberculosis of the lungs, 132.4. The rate from tuberculosis of all forms declined continuously from 200.7 per 100,000 in 1904 to 141.6 in 1916, the decrease amounting to nearly 30 per cent; but for 1917 and 1918 increases are shown, the 1918 rate being somewhat higher than the rate for 1917, when it was 146.4. Until 1912 more deaths were due to tuberculosis than to any other single cause, but in that year and during the period 1914–1918 the mortality from tuberculosis was less than that from heart diseases.

Bright's disease and acute nephritis caused 79,343 deaths, or 96.9 per 100,000. This is a noticeable decrease as compared with 1917, when the rate was 107.4 per 100,000.

Cancer and other malignant tumors were responsible for 65,340 deaths, of which number 24,783, or nearly 38 per cent, resulted from cancer of the stomach and liver. The rate (79.8) is a decrease from 1917, when it was 81.6. With the exceptions of the years 1906, 1907, 1911, 1917 and 1918, there has been a continuous increase in the death rates from these diseases.

Apoplexy was the cause of 64,904 deaths, or 79.3 per 100,000. This rate, too, declined, having been for 1917, 82.9.

Diarrhea and enteritis caused 59,109 deaths, or 72.2 per 100,000, a decrease from the rate (79.0) for 1917. More than four-fifths of the total deaths charged to these causes in 1918 were of infants under 2 years of age.

Arterial diseases of various kinds—atheroma, aneurism, etc.—resulted in 19,027 deaths, or 23.2 per 100,000, which rate is somewhat less than that for 1917 (25.3).

Deaths from diabetes numbered 12,927, or 15.8 per 100,000. The rate from this disease increased almost continuously from 9.7 in 1900 to 17.0 in 1916, but since 1916 a slight decrease for each year is apparent. The rate for 1917 was 16.9.

Bronchitis caused 12,783 deaths, or 15.6 per 100,000. This rate is lower than that for any preceding year. The proportional decline from 1900, for which year the bronchitis rate was 45.7, to 1918, amounted to 66 per cent.

The rate for diphtheria is 13.8, representing 11,280 deaths. As compared with 1917, when the rate was 16.5, there is a perceptible decrease.

Typhoid Fever.

Typhoid fever resulted in 10,210 deaths, or 12.5 per 100,000. The mortality rate from this cause has shown a remarkable reduction since 1900, when it was 35.9, the proportional decrease amounting to 65 per cent. This highly gratifying decline demonstrates in a striking manner the efficacy of improved sanitation and of the modern method of prevention—the use of the antityphoid vaccine.

Whooping Cough and Measles.

Whooping cough and measles together were responsible for 22,534 deaths of adults and children, or 27.6 per 100,000. The rates for these diseases were respectively, 16.8 and 10.8, as compared with 10.4 and 14.3 for 1917.

External Causes.

Deaths due to external causes of all kinds—accidental, suicidal, and homicidal—numbered 82,349 in 1918, corresponding to a rate of 100.6 per 100,000 population. This is a noticeable decrease, the rate for 1917 being 108.8. In fact, except for automobile and machinery accidents and injuries, all the external causes showed a general decrease in 1918.

The greatest number of deaths charged to any one accidental cause—10,330, or 12.6 per 100,000—is shown for falls.

Next to falls, the greatest number of accidental deaths—8,610, or 10.5 per 100,000—resulted from railroad accidents and injuries.

Deaths from automobile accidents and injuries in 1918 totaled 7,525, or 9.2 per 100,000 population. This rate has risen rapidly from year to year, which strongly suggests the need for better traffic regulations and better enforcement of those we now have.

Burns—excluding those received in conflagrations—were responsible for 6,638 deaths, or 8.1 per 100,000.

Accidental drowning caused 5,633 deaths, or 6.9 per 100,000. This rate is considerably less than that for any preceding year since 1910.

Deaths due to accidental asphyxiation (except in conflagrations) numbered 3,371, or 4.2 per 100,000. This rate is slightly less than that, 4.5, for the previous year, but is somewhat higher than the rate for any year during the preceding 10-year period.

Mine accidents and injuries resulted in 2,497 deaths, or 3.1 per 100,000.

Machinery accidents caused 2,371 deaths, or 2.9 per 100,000, a rate greater than that for any year covered by the Bureau's mortality records.

Deaths resulting from street-car accidents numbered 2,366, corresponding to a rate of 2.9 per 100,000.

Deaths due to injuries by vehicles other than railroad cars, street cars, and automobiles numbered 2,337, or 2.7 per 100,000.

The number of suicides reported for 1918 was 9,937, or 12.1 per 100,000, the rate being the lowest shown for any year since 1903.

Other deaths due to external causes totaled 20,834, or 25.4 per 100,000.

The following table shows, for the death-registration area in continental United States in 1918, the total number of deaths and the death rate, by leading causes, together with the percentage which each cause contributed to the total:

Cause of death.	Number.	Rate per 100,000 population.	Per cent of total.
All causes	**1,471,367**	**1,797.2**	**100.0**
Influenza	244,681	298.9	16.6
Pneumonia (all forms)	232,786	284.3	15.8
Organic diseases of the heart	124,668	152.3	8.5
Tuberculosis (all forms)	**122,040**	**149.1**	**8.3**
Tuberculosis of lungs	108,365	132.4	7.4
Tuberculous meningitis	5,910	7.2	.4
Other forms of tuberculosis	7,765	9.5	.5
External causes	**82,349**	**100.6**	**5.6**
Accidental falls	10,330	12.6	.7
Suicide	9,937	12.1	.7
Railroad accidents and injuries	8,610	10.5	.6
Automobile accidents and injuries	7,525	9.2	.5
Burns (excluding those due to conflagrations)	6,638	8.1	.5
Accidental drowning	5,633	6.9	.4
Homicide	5,508	6.7	.4
Accidental absorption of deleterious gases, except in conflagrations.	3,371	4.2	.2

Cause of death.	Number.	Rate per 100,000 population.	Per cent of total.
All causes—Continued.			
External causes—Continued.			
Mine accidents and injuries	2,497	3.1	0.2
Machinery accidents and injuries	2,371	2.9	.2
Street-car accidents and injuries	2,366	2.9	.2
Injuries by vehicles, other than railroad cars, street cars, and automobiles	2,237	2.7	.2
Effects of heat, other than burns	1,146	1.4	.1
Other external causes	14,180	17.3	1.0
Acute nephritis and Bright's disease	79,343	96.9	5.4
Cancer	65,340	79.8	4.4
Cerebral hemorrhage (apoplexy)	64,904	79.3	4.4
Congenital debility and malformations	63,375	77.4	4.3
Diarrhea and enteritis	59,109	72.2	4.0
Arterial diseases—atheroma, aneurism, etc	19,027	23.2	1.3
Whooping cough	13,728	16.8	.9
Diabetes	12,927	15.8	.9
Puerperal affections other than puerperal septicemia	12,927	15.8	.9
Bronchitis	12,783	15.6	.9
Senility	12,251	15.0	.8
Diphtheria	11,280	13.8	.8
Respiratory diseases, other than pneumonia and bronchitis	10,391	12.7	.7
Typhoid fever	10,210	12.5	.7
Appendicitis and typhlitis	9,912	12.1	.7
Hernia and intestinal obstructions	9,350	11.4	.6
Measles	8,806	10.8	.6
Meningitis	8,064	9.8	.5
Cirrhosis of the liver	7,808	9.5	.5
Syphilis	7,604	9.3	.5
Paralysis without specified cause	7,183	8.8	.5
Acute endocarditis	6,694	8.2	.5
Angina pectoris	6,043	7.4	.4
General paralysis of the insane	5,890	7.2	.4
Puerperal septicemia	5,250	6.4	.4
Dysentery	4,725	5.8	.3
Anemia chlorosis	4,525	5.5	.3
All other defined causes	109,747	134.1	7.5
Unknown or ill-defined causes	15,647	19.1	1.1

HARRISON NARCOTIC DRUG ACT CONSTRUED.

In a prosecution of a physician under the Harrison drug act for obtaining opium for his own personal use by means of the prescribed order forms, the United States District Court for the District of Montana has decided [1] that such conduct is not an offense under that part of section 2 of the act which reads as follows:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to obtain by means of said order forms any of the aforesaid drugs for any purpose other than the use, sale, or distribution thereof by him in the conduct of a lawful business in said drugs or in the legitimate practice of his profession."

The court pointed out that one of the objections to the contention that such conduct was a crime was that "Congress having no power to directly prohibit the purchase of opium for personal use, it can not indirectly do so by incorporation of such prohibition in a revenue measure, the prohibition having no reasonable relation to the revenue." The court further stated as follows:

> Section 2 must be construed to be in aid of the only object of the act that is constitutional, viz, to create and safeguard revenue. How the purchase herein alleged could in anywise affect the revenue is inconceivable.
>
> Nothing in section 2 forbids purchases for any lawful use. Among such may be purchase to destroy, or to absorb the supply, or to prevent purchase by others, or to obstruct illegal traffic, all of which are lawful purposes, and none of which are within section 2, even as purchase for personal use is not.

---

[1] United States *v.* Parsons, 261 Fed. 223.